Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Scientific and Technical cooperation in the field of meteorological and upper atmospheric research using space techniques signed on January 18, 1989.

(c) Under the agreements with USSR a contract for launching of IRS-IB Satellite with Soviet launch vehicle has recently been concluded. For the investigations of space meteorology, regular weekly launches of Soviet M-100 and Indian sounding rockets are being continued for atleast 3 more years. A major outcome of the Indo-French Collaboration is the completion of transfer of VIKING liquid engine technology to ISRO in return for ISRO supplying Pressure Transducers to France.

(d) No separate agreement has been signed with China exclusively for collaboration in Space.

Export of Aircraft by HAL

1368. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has a plan to export its aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have exported aircraft made by H.A.L. in 1987-88; and

(d) if so, the details of such exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is negotiating export proposals for trainer aircraft HPT-32 and HTT-34 and Light Transport Aircraft Dornier-228 with a few friedly countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Electronic Equipment by Industrial Houses

1369. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large industrial houses are being allowed to produce electronic equipment connected with defence; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Defence related electronic equipments which are allowed for the Civil Sector in terms of Government's Industrial Policy, *viz.* electronic measuring instruments, systems/sub-systems required for communication equipments, computers/computer peripherals etc. are purchased based on competitive tenders. In such purchases, the nature of ownership of the company is not a factor in the selection of the source(s).

The names of some of the firms reported to be under the control of large industrial houses who have secured orders for electronic equipment connected with Defence are furnished below:—

1. UNITRON
2. Philips India Ltd.
3. English Electric Company
4. Tata Electric Company

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations running Hospitals

1370. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give financial assistance to voluntary organisations which are running hospitals for improvement thereof;

(b) whether Government have received requests from voluntary organisations for financial assistance under this scheme;